for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

7. Supporting programmes of institutions and NGOs in exploiting tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.

8. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

9. Steps are being initiated to set up site specific "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas.

[English]

Tehri Project

720. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review Tehri Project in Garhwal Hills keeping in view recent movement by the environment activists to stop construction; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, in view of several issues raised by Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna regarding safety aspects as well as environmental and rehabilitation issues, the Government had constituted a Group of Experts to review the safety aspect of Tehri Dam in June, 1996 and another Committee on rehabilitation and environmental issues in September, 1996. The reports of the two Committees have been received. Neither of the two committees have recommended stoppage of construction work. There is no proposal to stop construction work.

[Translation]

Privatisation of AIR/Doordarshan

721. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector to set up Radio Station and Doordarshan Kendras in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Amount for Dredging the National Water Ways

722. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for the work relating to dredging of the national water ways during the current year;

(b) the time by which the work would be commenced and completed; and

(c) the details of connected works proposed to be undertaken alongwith dredging, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Rs. 4.30 crores

(b) Annual maintenance dredging in National Waterway-1 is expected to commence in early November, 1998 and continue till May, 1999. In National Waterway-3 the capital dredging work is scheduled to commence from middle of September, 1998 and is expected to be completed by June, 1999.

(c) On National Waterway-1 before dredging identification of shoals by talweg survey and detailed pre dredging surveys are conducted, using departmental dredger and survey vessels. On National Waterway-3 the works connected with dredging are acquisition of land for widening of the canal, bank protection, dry and wet soil excavation.

[Translation]

National Highways in M.P.

723. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the amount spent on them during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Total No. of National Highways (including 2 newly declared National Highways) in Madhya Pradesh is 11.

(b) Yearwise allocation of amount for development and maintenance, for the last three years, is as under :

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation of funds	
	Development	Maintenance & Repairs
1995-96	2020.00	1971.52
1996-97	1020.00	3176.72
1997-98	4000.00	3313.78